

the ribbon;

mechanical drive wheel means located downstream of said curling means for drawing the ribbon across said curling means; wherein said mechanical drive wheel means includes a first conveyor belt and a fixed roller, the ribbon being disposed between the fixed roller and conveyor belt.

23. A ribbon curling device of claim 22, further comprising:

delivery means for delivering a supply of unstressed curable ribbon;

curling means located downstream of said delivery means for curling the ribbon;

mechanical drive means located downstream of said curling means for drawing the ribbon across said curling means; wherein said mechanical drive wheel means includes a first conveyor belt then a second conveyor belt, the ribbon being disposed between the second conveyor belt and first conveyor belt.

24. A ribbon curling device for forming a curl in a ribbon comprising:

delivery means for delivering a supply of unstressed curable ribbon;

curling means located downstream of said delivery means for curling the ribbon; and

mechanical drive wheel means located downstream of said curling means for drawing the ribbon across said curling means; said driving means including stripping means for preventing said ribbon from becoming attached to said mechanical drive wheel means, said mechanical drive wheel means including a first plurality of

wheels each having a first diameter, a large diameter wheel having a diameter larger than said first diameter, and a small diameter wheel drive wheel having a diameter smaller than the size of the curls within the ribbon, said curling ribbon passing between said large diameter wheel and said small diameter wheel.

25. A ribbon curling device comprising delivery means for delivering a supply of unstressed curable ribbon;

curling means located downstream of said delivery means for curling the ribbon;

mechanical drive means located downstream of said curling means for drawing the ribbon across said curling means; and

a curled ribbon transport, said mechanical drive wheel means being disposed above said transport a sufficient distance such that the weight of said curling ribbon causes said ribbon to fall to said transport.

REMARKS

The Preliminary Amendment is submitted to conform the present specification to the specification and drawings which were approved by the Examiner in the allowed parent grandparent application and in the pending parent application. In addition, the Preliminary Amendment adds five new structure claims which find support in the application as filed and also amends the specification to more clearly describe the structure already identified in the specification as filed and as approved by the Examiner